

2019–2020 NC Final Exams of World History, American History I, American History II, and American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics

North Carolina Assessment Specifications

Purpose of the Assessments

North Carolina Final Exams (NCFEs) for Social Studies measure students' academic progress in the [NC Essential Standards](#), adopted by the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) in [December 2010](#).

NC State Board of Education policy [TEST-016](#) directs schools to use the results from all course-specific NCFEs as a minimum of 20% of the student's final course grade.

NCFEs are not used for school and district accountability under the Accountability Model or for federal reporting purposes.

Developing Assessments

North Carolina educators are recruited and trained to write new items for the NCFEs. The diversity among the item writers and their knowledge of the content standards are addressed during recruitment. Trained North Carolina educators also review items and suggest improvements, if necessary. The use of North Carolina educators to develop and review items strengthens the instructional validity of the items. Teachers interested in training to become an item writer or a reviewer for the North Carolina Testing Program can visit <https://center.ncsu.edu/ncpd/course/view.php?id=128>.

For an in-depth explanation of the test development process see SBE policy [TEST-013](#) or reference the [Test Development Process: Item, Selection, and Form Development](#).

Curriculum and Assessment Cycle

- 2010: North Carolina SBE adoption of the [NC Essential Standards](#)
- 2012–13: Operational administration of the Measures of Student Learning: Common Exams
- 2013–14: Redesign and subsequent first operational administration of the NCFEs
- 2014–15: Second operational administration of the NCFEs
- 2015–16: Third operational administration of the NCFEs
- 2016–17: Fourth operational administration of the NCFEs
- 2017–18: Fifth operational administration of the NCFEs
- 2018–19: Sixth operational administration of the NCFEs
- 2019–20: Seventh operational administration of the NCFEs

Prioritization of Standards

Members of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's (NCDPI) Test Development Section invited teachers to collaborate and develop recommendations for a prioritization of the standards, indicating the relative importance of each standard, the anticipated instructional time, and the appropriateness of the standard for multiple-choice and constructed response item formats.

Tables 1–4 describe the range of total items that will appear on the NCFE forms. All the following NCFEs contain only multiple-choice items. The multiple-choice items are worth one point each. In order to ensure that the four dimensions of historical thinking remain central to the history tests, item developers incorporated Standard 1 across as many items as possible.

Table 1. *Test Specification Weights for the **World History** NCFE*

Standard 1	Standard 2	Range of Total Items
WH.H.1	WH.H.2	16% to 20%
WH.H.1	WH.H.3	8% to 12%
WH.H.1	WH.H.4	8% to 12%
WH.H.1	WH.H.5	8% to 12%
WH.H.1	WH.H.6	8% to 12%
WH.H.1	WH.H.7	12% to 16%
WH.H.1	WH.H.8	20% to 24%
Total		100%

Table 2. *Test Specification Weights for the **American History I** NCFE*

Standard 1	Standard 2	Range of Total Items
AH1.H.1	AH1.H.2	12% to 18%
AH1.H.1	AH1.H.3	10% to 15%
AH1.H.1	AH1.H.4	25% to 30%
AH1.H.1	AH1.H.5	11% to 15%
AH1.H.1	AH1.H.6	8% to 12%
AH1.H.1	AH1.H.7	13% to 17%
AH1.H.1	AH1.H.8	3% to 7%
Total		100%

Table 3. *Test Specification Weights for the **American History II** NCFE*

Standard 1	Standard 2	Range of Total Items
AH2.H.1	AH2.H.2	15% to 20%
AH2.H.1	AH2.H.3	18% to 22%
AH2.H.1	AH2.H.4	15% to 21%
AH2.H.1	AH2.H.5	11% to 15%
AH2.H.1	AH2.H.6	11% to 15%
AH2.H.1	AH2.H.7	12% to 16%

AH2.H.1	AH2.H.8	3% to 7%
Total		100%

Table 4. *Test Specification Weights for the American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics NCFE*

<u>Standard</u>	Range of Total Items
FP.C&G.1	8% to 12%
FP.C&G.2	11% to 15%
FP.C&G.3	13% to 17%
FP.C&G.4	3% to 7%
FP.C&G.5	3% to 7%
FP.PFL	21% to 25%
FP.E	28% to 32%
Total	100%

Cognitive Rigor

The items on the Social Studies NCFEs were aligned to the [NC Essential Standards](#), using the Revised Bloom’s Taxonomy (RBT).

Types of Items and Supplemental Materials

The NCFEs for High School Social Studies courses consist of four-response-option multiple-choice items.

Many of the items require students to process factual content as they read, interpret, and/or analyze stimulus material, including maps, graphs, and excerpts of primary- and secondary-source documents.

The answer sheet (i.e., multiple-choice only) may be reviewed at the [NCDPI/Accountability Services](#) website.

A complete list of the supplemental test materials (i.e., *2019–2020 NC Final Exams Materials List*) may be reviewed at the [NCDPI/Accountability Services](#) website.

Released items are available on the [NCDPI/Accountability Services](#) Website. Released items may be used by school systems to help acquaint students with items. The released items, however, may not reflect the breadth of the standards assessed and/or the range of item difficulty found on the NCFE. These materials must not be used for personal or financial gain. The released items are also available to schools through NCTest, the NCDPI’s online assessment platform.

Schools must ensure every student participating in an online assessment for the North Carolina Testing Program has completed the appropriate Online Assessment Tutorial for the associated assessment(s) at least one time per year at the school before test day. The tutorial provides students the opportunity to practice the mechanics of navigating through the testing platform, to become familiar with the tools, and to respond to the sample items. Refer to the [Online and Paper/Pencil Test Administrator’s Guide](#) for additional information.

Testing Structure and Test Administration Time

The NCFEs of World History, American History I, American History II, and American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics contain 42 multiple-choice items.

Included in the total item counts are embedded multiple-choice field test items that will not count toward or against a student's score. These items are examined for inclusion on future operational assessments.

NC Final Exam 2018–19	Number of Operational Items	Number of Field Test Items*	Total Number of Items
World History	37 multiple-choice	5 multiple-choice	42
American History I	37 multiple-choice	5 multiple-choice	42
American History II	37 multiple-choice	5 multiple-choice	42
American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics	37 multiple-choice	5 multiple-choice	42

*Field test items will not count toward or against a student's score.

Students will be given 120 minutes to answer all items.

Appendices A–D show the number of operational items for each clarifying objective for the 2018–19 exams. Note that future coverage of objectives could vary within the constraints of the test specifications' weights in Tables 1–4.

Test Cycle and Delivery Mode

The NCFEs are administered to students enrolled in fall, spring, and yearlong courses. A list of course codes that align with the 2019–20 NCFEs (i.e., *Course Codes that Align with the NC Final Exams*) is available on the [NCDPI/Accountability Services](#) website.

The NCFEs are administered through NCTest, the NCDPI's online assessment platform. Paper editions are also available.

The NC Final Exams are only provided in English; translated versions are not available.

Appendix A
World History NC Final Exam 2019–20
Number of Operational Items by Clarifying Objectives

The following table shows the number of operational (scored) test items for each clarifying objective. Note that future coverage of objectives could vary within the constraints of the test specification weights in Tables 1–4. Some objectives not designated with tested items (i.e., “–”) may be a prerequisite objective, may be tested within the context of another objective, or may be included as an embedded field test item.

<u>World History Clarifying Objectives</u>	Number of Operational Items by Objective
Analyze ancient civilizations and empires in terms of their development, growth, and lasting impact.	
WH.H.2.1	–
WH.H.2.2	1
WH.H.2.3	2
WH.H.2.4	–
WH.H.2.5	1
WH.H.2.6	1
WH.H.2.7	1
WH.H.2.8	1
WH.H.2.9	–
Understand how conflict and innovation influenced political, religious, economic, and social changes in medieval civilizations.	
WH.H.3.1	1
WH.H.3.2	1
WH.H.3.3	1
WH.H.3.4	1
Analyze the political, economic, social, and cultural factors that led to the development of the first age of global interaction.	
WH.H.4.1	–
WH.H.4.2	2
WH.H.4.3	2
WH.H.4.4	–
Analyze exploration and expansion in terms of its motivations and impact.	
WH.H.5.1	2
WH.H.5.2	1
WH.H.5.3	–
WH.H.5.4	1

Understand the Age of Revolutions and Rebellions.	
WH.H.6.1	1
WH.H.6.2	1
WH.H.6.3	2
WH.H.6.4	—
Understand how national, regional, and ethnic interests have contributed to conflict among groups and nations in the modern era.	
WH.H.7.1	—
WH.H.7.2	1
WH.H.7.3	—
WH.H.7.4	1
WH.H.7.5	2
WH.H.7.6	1
Analyze global interdependence and shifts in power in terms of political, economic, social, and environmental changes and conflicts since the last half of the twentieth century.	
WH.H.8.1	1
WH.H.8.2	1
WH.H.8.3	3
WH.H.8.4	1
WH.H.8.5	1
WH.H.8.6	1
WH.H.8.7	1

Appendix B
American History I NC Final Exam 2019–20
Number of Operational Items by Clarifying Objectives

The following table shows the number of operational (scored) test items for each clarifying objective. Note that future coverage of objectives could vary within the constraints of the test specification weights in Tables 1–4. Some objectives not designated with tested items (i.e., “–”) may be a prerequisite objective, may be tested within the context of another objective, or may be included as an embedded field test item.

<u>American History I</u> <u>Clarifying Objectives</u>	Number of Operational Items by Objective
Analyze key political, economic, and social turning points in American History using historical thinking.	
AH1.H.2.1	4
AH1.H.2.2	2
Understand the factors that led to exploration, settlement, movement, and expansion and their impact on United States development over time.	
AH1.H.3.1	–
AH1.H.3.2	–
AH1.H.3.3	3
AH1.H.3.4	1
Analyze how conflict and compromise have shaped politics, economics, and culture in the United States.	
AH1.H.4.1	4
AH1.H.4.2	1
AH1.H.4.3	2
AH1.H.4.4	3
Understand how tensions between freedom, equality, and power have shaped the political, economic, and social development of the United States.	
AH1.H.5.1	1
AH1.H.5.2	4
Understand how and why the role of the United States in the world has changed over time.	
AH1.H.6.1	1
AH1.H.6.2	3

Understand the impact of war on American politics, economics, society, and culture.	
AH1.H.7.1	3
AH1.H.7.2	1
AH1.H.7.3	2
Analyze the relationship between progress, crisis, and the “American Dream” within the United States.	
AH1.H.8.1	1
AH1.H.8.2	1
AH1.H.8.3	—
AH1.H.8.4	—

Appendix C
American History II NC Final Exam 2019–20
Number of Operational Items by Clarifying Objectives

The following table shows the number of operational (scored) test items for each clarifying objective. Note that future coverage of objectives could vary within the constraints of the test specification weights in Tables 1–4. Some objectives not designated with tested items (i.e., “–”) may be a prerequisite objective, may be tested within the context of another objective, or may be included as an embedded field test item.

<u>American History II Clarifying Objectives</u>	Number of Operational Items by Objective
Analyze key political, economic, and social turning points in American History using historical thinking.	
AH2.H.2.1	2
AH2.H.2.2	4
Understand the factors that led to exploration, settlement, movement, and expansion and their impact on United States development over time.	
AH2.H.3.1	3
AH2.H.3.2	1
AH2.H.3.3	1
AH2.H.3.4	2
Analyze how conflict and compromise have shaped politics, economics, and culture in the United States.	
AH2.H.4.1	1
AH2.H.4.2	2
AH2.H.4.3	1
AH2.H.4.4	3
Understand how tensions between freedom, equality, and power have shaped the political, economic, and social development of the United States.	
AH2.H.5.1	2
AH2.H.5.2	3
Understand how and why the role of the United States in the world has changed over time.	
AH2.H.6.1	2
AH2.H.6.2	3
Understand the impact of war on American politics, economics, society, and culture.	
AH2.H.7.1	1
AH2.H.7.2	3
AH2.H.7.3	2

Analyze the relationship between progress, crisis, and the “American Dream” within the United States.	
AH2.H.8.1	—
AH2.H.8.2	1
AH2.H.8.3	—
AH2.H.8.4	—

Appendix D
American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics NC Final Exam
2019–20

Number of Operational Items by Clarifying Objectives

The following table shows the number of operational (scored) test items for each clarifying objective. Note that future coverage of objectives could vary within the constraints of the test specification weights in Tables 1–4. Some objectives not designated with tested items (i.e., “–”) may be a prerequisite objective, may be tested within the context of another objective, or may be included as an embedded field test item.

<u>American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics Clarifying Objectives</u>	Number of Operational Items by Objective
Analyze the foundations and development of American government in terms of principles and values.	
FP.C&G.1.1	1
FP.C&G.1.2	2
FP.C&G.1.3	–
FP.C&G.1.4	1
FP.C&G.1.5	–
Analyze government systems within the United States in terms of their structure, function, and relationships.	
FP.C&G.2.1	1
FP.C&G.2.2	1
FP.C&G.2.3	1
FP.C&G.2.4	–
FP.C&G.2.5	1
FP.C&G.2.6	–
FP.C&G.2.7	–
FP.C&G.2.8	1
Analyze the legal system within the United States in terms of the development, execution, and protection of citizenship rights at all levels of government.	
FP.C&G.3.1	–
FP.C&G.3.2	–
FP.C&G.3.3	–
FP.C&G.3.4	1
FP.C&G.3.5	–
FP.C&G.3.6	1
FP.C&G.3.7	2
FP.C&G.3.8	2

Understand how democracy depends upon the active participation of citizens.	
FP.C&G.4.1	–
FP.C&G.4.2	–
FP.C&G.4.3	–
FP.C&G.4.4	2
FP.C&G.4.5	–
Analyze how political and legal systems within and outside of the United States provide a means to balance competing interests and resolve conflicts.	
FP.C&G.5.1	–
FP.C&G.5.2	2
FP.C&G.5.3	–
FP.C&G.5.4	–
FP.C&G.5.5	–
Analyze the concepts and factors that enable individuals to make informed financial decisions for effective resource planning.	
FP.PFL.1.1	–
FP.PFL.1.2	1
FP.PFL.1.3	–
FP.PFL.1.4	2
FP.PFL.1.5	1
FP.PFL.1.6	1
Understand how risk management strategies empower and protect consumers.	
FP.PFL.2.1	1
FP.PFL.2.2	–
FP.PFL.2.3	–
FP.PFL.2.4	1
FP.PFL.2.5	1
Understand economies, markets, and the role economic factors play in making economic decisions.	
FP.E.1.1	2
FP.E.1.2	1
FP.E.1.3	–
FP.E.1.4	–
FP.E.1.5	1
FP.E.1.6	1

Understand factors of economic interdependence and their impact on nations.	
FP.E.2.1	–
FP.E.2.2	–
FP.E.2.3	–
FP.E.2.4	1
Analyze the role of government and economic institutions in developing and implementing economic stabilization policies in the U.S.	
FP.E.3.1	1
FP.E.3.2	2
FP.E.3.3	1